

The Oakland Union of the Homeless took over three houses and had them barricaded. Then the cops came down and busted them. When their supporters found out they were locked up and the cops had arrested them for taking over the houses, they demanded that some of the council members do something on their behalf. Hours after that, they were released. *The union eventually won control of a million-dollar housing and service project for the homeless.*

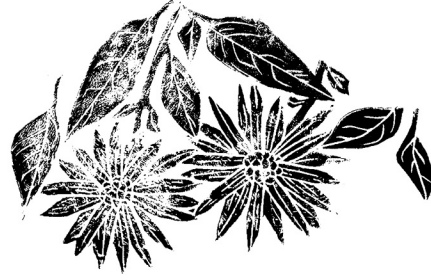
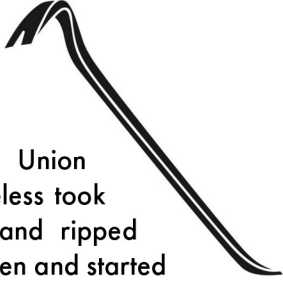


**PRECEDENTS
TO LEARN FROM:**

The Philadelphia Union of the Homeless was able to gain control of homeless services, including a housing program that encompassed more than 200 housing units. They applied for a grant through the city and received \$21,000. They had been meeting in a Methodist church as a base for organizing, and used this space to begin sheltering people.

The HCRP (Homeless Civil Rights Project) focused on issues of civil rights for the homeless. HCRP put together a petition to get a particularly evil police officer removed. *This process ultimately led to negotiations with the city to gain representation on the citizen advisory committee.*

The Denver Union of the Homeless took a crowbar and ripped the doors open and started spending time in the HUD houses near where one of the members lived. As a result of this takeover, HUD entered into negotiations with a number of local service providers and *55 houses were made available for housing for the poor.*



**WHY START A
HOMELESS UNION?**


The Tucson Union of the Homeless (TUH) organized a *Posada*, a traditional Mexican procession that reenacts Joseph and Mary's search for a place to stay. In the union's version, hundreds of homeless people paraded from the federal building to the city offices. The *Posada*, led by banners proclaiming "Still No Room at the Inn," visited various agency offices that the TUH felt should be addressing the homeless issue. The procession ended at the county building where a two-week encampment at the front of the building ensued. *The county ultimately made \$50,000 available to homeless service providers to expand homeless services.*

**WHAT COULD WE
ACHIEVE IF WE WORK
COLLECTIVELY WITH
EACH OTHER?**



We currently don't have access to basic necessities such as **free laundry** and **three meals a day** even though we're supposed to be guaranteed rights to them. The city isn't going to provide these unless we force their hand, and we can't do that individually.

Our current rights are the bare minimum! Imagine if we had **free therapy** or **clean bathrooms**?

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